

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 923

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. J. David Edwards on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors is Dr. J. David Edwards; and

WHEREAS, having served with distinction as City Manager of the City of Lakesite since February 1992, Dr. Edwards began his well-deserved retirement in December 2021; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished twenty-nine-year career with the City of Lakesite, Dr. David Edwards provided solid leadership and thoughtful guidance for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Edwards received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Entomology from the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, in 1979; a Master of Public Administration degree from Valdosta State College, in Valdosta, Georgia, in 1987; and a Doctor of Public Administration from the University of Georgia in 1994; and

WHEREAS, one of the most experienced city managers in the State, Dr. David Edwards is an accomplished professor whose areas of specialization include public administration, state and local government, organization theory and behavior, nonprofit management, and human resources management in public agencies; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Edwards's career encompasses a number of academic posts at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, including Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Chattanooga Foundation Associate Professor of Political Science, Dalton Roberts Professor of Public Administration, and Coordinator of the Master of Public Administration Program; and

WHEREAS, he has authored numerous academic journal articles, book chapters, peer-reviewed presentations, monographs, reports, and articles over the course of his career, and he has been frequently recognized for achievements in both academics and public service; and

WHEREAS, an active and dynamic member of his profession, Dr. David Edwards is a Certified Municipal Finance Officer and a founding board member of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of American Society for Public Administration; he has served as a consultant to the Fairfield Glade Incorporation Committee and the Cleveland/Bradley County Local Government Study Committee; a council member of the East Tennessee Chapter of American Society for Public Administration; treasurer of the East Tennessee Chapter of American Society for Public Administration; consultant to Richard Ottaway, Member of British Parliament, on London Mayoralty; and program representative of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration; and

WHEREAS, he is also a member of the American Society for Public Administration, International City Managers Association, Tennessee City Managers Association, Western Social Sciences Association, and the Government Finance Officers Association; and

WHEREAS, in his role as city manager, Dr. Edwards was responsible for managing all aspects of the City of Lakesite, including budgeting and financial administration, contract negotiation and monitoring, staffing, strategy, and public relations. His commitment to fiscally responsible governance helped ensure that the City of Lakesite's tax rate remained one of the lowest in the State; and

WHEREAS, Dr. David Edwards compiled a singular record of success as the city manager of Lakesite, and he carried out his responsibilities with diligence and integrity; and

WHEREAS, his remarkable accomplishments as a public servant and civic leader are directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Edwards is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend Dr. J. David Edwards for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as City Manager of the City of Lakesite and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.